

ACUPUNCTURE AND WELLNESS

**DEBRA DIERS, LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST
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March 7, 2010

~~SB-00392~~

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Debra Diers

**Senator Joseph Crisco
Representative Steve Fontana
Co-Chairs, Insurance & Real Estate Committee**

RE: SB 00392 – AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENTS PROVIDED BY CHIROPRACTORS AND THE
MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE CARRIED BY
CHIROPRACTORS

Dear Senator Crisco and Representative Fontana,

It has come to my attention that S.B. 00392, noted above, will be coming before you this
Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

My name is Debra Diers. I live in Glastonbury and have been an acupuncturist since
1992 and a Licensed Acupuncturist in CT since 1995 (Lic. #13). I am a registered nurse
in CT, working part-time for the past 17 years at the Dept of Developmental Services,
and I also hold a license as an acupuncturist in the state of New Mexico. I was involved
in the original group that initiated licensing laws for acupuncture in CT, and have been
involved in the newly re-organized Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental
Medicine (CSAOM) since its inception in 2007, presently serving as President.

I am a graduate of the New England School of Acupuncture (NESA) in Watertown,
Massachusetts

In a matter as complicated, important, and passionate as insurance coverage, I believe it is
vital that all avenues be explored and that the interest of the health care consumer be best
served. People seeking out medical care of any kind want to know that they are going to
the practitioner that is able to help them the most and do so in the most professional,
expedient, competent, safe and cost effective manner possible. Presently, the laws in CT
allow chiropractors and other professions to practice acupuncture with no minimum

requirements or standards. In fact, the chiropractic scope of practice has no specified acupuncture education and examination. In contrast, Licensed Acupuncturists are required to have a minimum of 1350 hours of didactic and clinical hours, pass national board examination (NCCAOM), and successfully pass a Clean Needle Technique course. This is required of no other profession that wishes to practice acupuncture in CT. Presently, acupuncture schools are graduating students at the Master Degree level. Licensed Acupuncturists are a small group of practitioners compared to other medical profession, but we are as dedicated to and passionate about our profession as any other and our focus is on the best care for our patients.

I respectfully request that you strongly consider rejecting S.B. 00392 until such a time that these issues can be reviewed and these discrepancies in training can be evaluated. It is my belief that the public right to "best practice" standards will continue to be unmet in this field if this bill is passed. In this present economic situation, many people will choose to see a practitioner who accepts their insurance. While there is no doubt that some of these people will be helped in some way by some of these practitioners, it is my belief that the majority of them will see very little if any result from their treatment, will have delayed care from a qualified practitioner, in this case the Licensed Acupuncturist, possibly be exposed to unsafe practices and have utilized health care dollars with very little to show for it. This statement is made from the numerous incidents that have been relayed to me by patients that have come to me over the years for treatment, after having been to a chiropractor for acupuncture. Passage of this bill will most likely also have devastating consequences on the practices of Licensed Acupuncturists with out the same benefit of insurance coverage.

I know that everyone wants what they want, human nature, but I urge you to step back and look at this issue closely before granting passage of this bill. CSAOM has spent the past 2 years educating the Dept of Public Health on the practice and issues of acupuncture and Oriental medicine and we would be grateful for the opportunity to work closely with you also to help inform you of the same. I appreciate the time you have taken to read and consider this letter. I am unable to provide electronic signature, so will sign and mail a hard copy of this letter to you.

Respectfully yours,

Debra Diers
L.Ac., DOM, R.N.
President CSAOM